REMARKS

In response to the Official Action of February 28, 2006, claims 1, 3, 6-9 and 16-18 have been amended, claim 2 has been canceled and claims 19-27 have been added. For the reasons set forth below, it is believed that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance.

Referring now to page 2 of the Official Action, claims 1 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of US patent 5,559,978, Spilo. At page 3 of the Official Action, claims 2-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable in view of Spilo, further in view of US patent 6,775,751, Tremaine. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2 (claim 2 has been canceled) and consequently, the remarks below are directed to the rejection of claim 2 which now pertains to amended claim 1.

In the rejection of claim 2, Spilo is relied upon for the reasons set forth with regard to previous claim 1 and Tremaine is relied upon in view of Spilo not teaching utilization of compression tables. It is asserted that Tremaine teaches a plurality of fixed compression tables which, in combination with Spilo, would suggest claim 2. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In particular, Tremaine is directed to a system and method for using a compressed main memory based on degree of compressibility and proposes a compressor which operates on a fixed size block of information by locating and replacing repeated byte strings within the block with a pointer to the first instance of a given string and encoding the result according to a protocol. The post-process output block in Tremaine ranges from just a few bytes to the original block size, the latter when the compressor cannot sufficiently reduce the starting block size to warrant compressing at all (see column 5, lines 35-45).

Thus, the pointer disclosed in Tremaine is defined as soon as a repeating string is detected. This pointer replaces the repeating string. This operation is not based at all on the use of a compression table associating original values to values of a compression code as required by amended claim 1. Not only is the operation in Tremaine not based on the use of a compression table, but it clearly does not use a plurality of such

compression tables which is also set forth in amended claim 1. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the disclosure in Tremaine is completely different from the disclosure of the present invention as recited in amended claim 1.

In addition, Tremaine discloses that data blocks having a higher compressibility attribute are compressed before data blocks having a lower compressibility attribute (see column 3, lines 48-51). Tremaine thus discloses which data block is selected for compression. In contrast, amended claim 1 recites associating to a respective portion of memory content, the fixed compression table resulting in the highest compression when applied to this portion of memory content. Thus, claim 1 is in contrast to the disclosure in Tremaine since claim 1 recites that the best compression table of several compression tables is selected for compression of a particular portion of memory content. Thus, the teaching of Tremaine is completely different from the disclosure of the present invention, including particularly the recited associating to a respective portion of memory content the fixed compression table resulting in the highest compression when applied to this portion of memory content.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is distinguished over Spilo in view of Tremaine. Since claim 1 is distinguished over the cited art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-15, all of which depend from claim 1, are further distinguished over the cited art.

Independent claim 16 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1 and, for similar reasons, is believed to be not anticipated by Spilo, nor obvious in view of Spilo and Tremaine.

At pages 7-8 of the Official Action, claim 17 is rejected in view of Spilo and Tremaine. Claim 17 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1 and, for similar reasons, is believed to be distinguished over the cited art.

At page 8 of the Official Action, claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Spilo in view of US patent 5,913,215, Rubinstein. Rubinstein is referenced for teaching that computer methods may be performed either by a series of instructions or by specific hardware components that contain hard-wired logic for

performing the method or by a combination of the two. Claim 18 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1 and, for similar reasons, is believed to be distinguished over this cited art.

New claims 19-25 are presented that depend from amended claim 16. These claims recite apparatus language similar to the dependent method claims and are therefore supported by the specification and drawings and are believed to be distinguished over the cited art. New claim 26 is similar to claim 16, but written in means plus function format. Claim 26 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons as presented with respect to claim 16. New claim 27 depends from claim 26 and is further distinguished over the cited art.
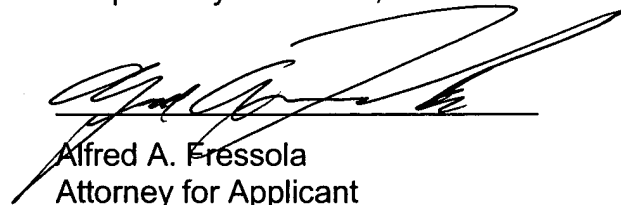
At page 10 of the Official Action, the prior art made of record but not relied upon is referenced. It is respectfully submitted that this prior art does not invalidate any of the claims of the present application as amended.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

The undersigned respectfully submits that no fee is due for filing this Amendment. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to deposit account 23-0442 any fee deficiency required to submit this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

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